

48th Assembly

April 2003



NEWSLETTER

48th AD Quickly Reacts to Governor's Proposed Budget Plan

Community Members Challenge Legislators to Do Better



Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas offers opening remarks at unprecedented budget town hall meeting on Governor's proposed budget.

One day after Governor Davis released his proposal to tackle the state's projected \$35 billion budget deficit, Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles) hosted the first 48th Assembly District Empowerment Congress Town Hall Meeting, "California's State Budget Crisis: Working Toward a Balanced Plan," on Saturday, January 11, 2003 at the California Science Center in Exposition Park. Its goal was to give constituents of the 48th Assembly

District and surrounding areas an overview of the state's budget process, to inform them on how to become active participants in the process, and to provide an opportunity for public comment on the state budget. Three hundred members of the public attended.

"California is faced with its biggest budget deficit in state history," said Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas. "Given the magnitude of this deficit, over \$30 million by most accounts, many difficult decisions will be made

in order to balance the budget. It is extremely important that the public weigh in on budget discussions to ensure that vital programs and services do not fall victim to budget cuts. Working together, we can develop a budget that is supported by the people and not balanced on the backs of those who can least afford cuts in essential services."

Joining Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), Chair, Jobs, Economic Development and Economy Committee were: Assemblymember Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), Chair, Budget Sub-Committee No. 1 on Health and Human Services; Assemblymember Dario Frommer (D-Los Angeles), Chair, Health Committee; Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), Chair, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee; Assemblymember Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles), Assembly Majority Whip; and Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach), Chair,

Assembly Budget Committee. They heard testimony from a variety of panelists and community leaders on a wide range of issues.

"As expected, the governor has proposed a very painful budget," said Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza, Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. "I look forward to analyzing the Governor's proposed budget, which details program cuts and increased taxes, so that together with the public, the budget committee can create a budget plan that meets the needs of Californians."

"I don't want California to adopt budget cuts that are pennywise and pound foolish," said Assemblymember Dario Frommer. "While many proposed cuts in health care save money this year, they will cost California millions in the years ahead due to the loss of federal matching funds and an increase in the number of Californians who have no health care."

"This is a time to organize, to raise our voices," said Assemblymember Fabian Nunez. "The testimony provided today by representatives from different organizations that represent those who will be affected the worst lays the groundwork for public involvement in the budget process."

"I believe that a budget is more than an indication of our revenues and obligations,"

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Sylvia Drew-Ivie, Tyrone Freeman and Dr. Robert Splawn are troubled by the negative impact on health care of the Governor's proposed budget.



300 Quickly React to Governor's Proposed Budget Plan

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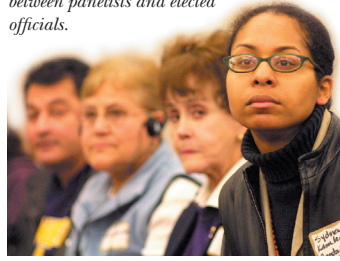
added Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas. "It is also a reflection of our values, commitments, and priorities."

Community leaders providing testimony were:

Health Testimony:

Tyrone Freeman, President, Service Employees International Union, Local 434B, Sylvia Drew Ivie, Executive Director, T.H.E. Clinic, Barbara Masters, Health Policy Advisor, The California Endowment, Dr. Robert Splawn, Medical Director, California Hospital's Center for Emer-

Members of the public listen intently to the exchange between panelists and elected officials.



gency Service.

Education Testimony:

Dr. Denise Fairchild, Executive Director, Community Development Technologies Center, Dr. Frank Gilliam, UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor, Community Partnerships, Honorable Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Los Angeles Unified School Board Member.

Public Safety/Criminal

Justice Testimony:

Dr. Paul Martinez, Director of Research and Evaluation,

White Memorial Medical Center, Department of Family Medicine Residency Program, Bill Martinez, Consultant, Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs, Paul Tanaka, Chief, Administrative Services Division, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Social Services Testimony:

Karen Bass, Executive Director, Community Coalition, Kerry Doi, President/CEO, Pacific

Asian Consortium in Employment, Holly Mitchell, Associate Director of External Affairs, Crystal Stairs.

Housing Testimony:

Sam Mistrano, Acting Executive Director, Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing, Marva Smith Battle-Bey, President, Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation.

Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Dr. Frank Gilliam and Dr. Denise Fairchild discuss the impacts of severe cuts to education.



1st Meeting of the 48th Assembly District Empowerment Congress

On January 10, 2003, the first meeting of the 48th Assembly District Empowerment Congress was convened by Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas. The meeting was largely organizational and served three purposes:

To provide Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas a means to share his vision of the Empowerment

Congress,

To introduce the stakeholders to the 48th Assembly District, and

To brainstorm on the mission and structure of a constituent based driven vehicle for the 48th Assembly District.

All the Neighborhood Councils within the 48th Assembly were represented, as were various community based organizations, churches, institutions and Council District 8 staff.

Representatives from the neighborhood councils provided feedback on points of interest in their respective neighborhoods, identified issues effecting their communities, discussed

suggested training for the members, and recruited volunteers for the committee to develop a mission statement.

The following individuals volunteered to form a committee to develop the mission statement for the 48th Assembly District Empowerment Congress: Guy Leemius, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, Stevie Stern, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, Neil Prince Beverly Kingsley Neighborhood Council, Elizabeth McClellan, Southeast Neighborhood Council, Milton Gaines, Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, Mary Lee, esq.

When the committee met on January 25, they wrote the following mission statement. *The mission of the 48th Assembly District Empowerment Congress (ADEC) is to empower our diverse community to ensure our collective voice is heard by:*

- Encouraging and enlisting the full participation of our community to improve our quality of life;
- Educating and informing our community on how state government works;
- Developing strategies that shape state policy and legislation;
- Connecting our community with state resources.

Upcoming Statewide Town Hall Budget Meeting The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair

Friday, April 11, 2003

Location: Fresno
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fresno City Hall
2800 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 9372
Contact: 31st Assembly District
(916) 319-2031

Friday, April 25, 2003

Location: Alameda
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Elihu M. Harris State Bldg.
Auditorium
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612
Contact: 16th Assembly District
(510) 286-1670

Friday, May 9, 2003

Location: San Diego
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
San Diego County Bldg.
Room 310, Supervisor's Chambers
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA
Contact: 76th Assembly District
(619) 294-7600